

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): Patrick C. St. Germain )  
Application No. 10/682,444 )  
Filed: October 9, 2003 ) Group Art Unit: 3721  
For: APPARATUS FOR MAKING )  
INTERFOLDED PRODUCT )  
Examiner: Sameh H. Tawfik ) Attorney Docket No. SSS-106

RESPONSE UNDER RULE 116

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2007 on the above-identified application. Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The present claims define an apparatus for interfolding at least two sheets of preformed material. The apparatus comprises at least two dispensers that preform the sheets of material to provide at least one longitudinally extending fold line and at least one fold, and downstream from these dispensers an interfolder that comprises a pair of folding rolls that receive the preformed sheet material from the dispensers and produce interfolded sheets of material.

Claims 11-16, inclusive, are under consideration at this time.

The rejection of claims 11 and 13-16 under 35-U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Stemmler in view of Hermach is not warranted, and is hereby traversed.

The Examiner recognizes that Stemmler, the principal reference, does not disclose the claimed preforming dispensers to provide at least one longitudinally extending fold line and at least one fold, respectively. No valid reason has been identified, however, why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the device of Stemmler with